GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1231
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2001
CELLULAR HANDSETS
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total requirement of cellular handsets in the country at present;

(b) whether entire requirement of such handsets is presently met by import;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to create infrastructure for manufacture of such sets indigenously;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) The total monthly requirement of cellular handsets in the country at present is estimated about 1,50,000 to 2,00,000 hand sets per month.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e): Manufacture of telecom equipment has been opened up for private sector participation with Foreign Direct Investment permitted upto 100% on automatic basis. The Government has announced several incentives to encourage manufacturing in India. However, the market forces decide setting up of such units, including manufacture of cellular handsets, volumes for deciding economic viable capacities depending upon the technology, indigenous base of components etc.